

Commissioner Deborah A. Gist's Weekly Field Memo
Friday, June 8, 2012

Notes from Commissioner Gist:

1. LEAs to receive school-classification data next week; RIDE schedules webinar on [classifications](#) for Wednesday

From the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE):

2. RIDE offers webinar on [Early Childhood Assessment](#)
3. RIDE announces selection of CDW-G as the provider for the [RI All-inclusive Classroom Solution](#).
4. RIDE provides crosswalk between Edition I and Edition II of the Rhode Island Model Teacher Professional Practice [Rubric](#).
5. RIDE shares new [details](#) about the training and support for Rhode Island Model evaluators
6. RIDE recruiting [Educator Quality Specialist](#)
7. [Roster Verification](#) for principals due Friday, June 22 – Action Item

Other:

8. [Summer](#) Professional Development
9. [Slater Mill](#) to hold open house for educators

Action Item Calendar

Today (June 8): Data collection for [PARCC Technology Readiness](#) Tool due
Wednesday (June 13): Preliminary [reports on Early Intervention Services](#) due
Wednesday (June 13): Deadline for [homeless-education data](#) filing
June 15: Deadline for forming [School Data Leadership Teams](#)
June 22: Deadline for principals to [sign off on TCS data](#)
June 29: Final reports on [Early Intervention Services](#) due
June 30: Schools and districts submit [final personnel assignments](#)

July 15: Deadline for final reporting of [evaluation ratings](#)
July 15: Deadline for submitting [school-construction forms](#)

Notes from Commissioner Gist:

1. LEAs to receive school-classification data next week; RIDE schedules webinar on classifications for Wednesday

Now that the U.S. Department of Education has approved our new accountability system, we are moving forward rapidly toward completing our 2012 School Classifications and developing guidance documents on the classification process and on the next steps for schools placed in intervention status (Focus and Priority Schools). As part of this work:

- Early next week we will send you a disc with the data and school classifications for your LEA, as well as with support materials, including our technical workbook on the accountability system.
- We have scheduled a superintendents' live webinar for **Wednesday** (June 13), from 1 to 2 p.m., to explain the new accountability system and to discuss the data discs.
- We have scheduled an optional meeting here at RIDE for next Friday (June 15), from 2 to 4 p.m., here at RIDE (80 Washington St. or 255 Westminster St., Providence, room 243) at which RIDE staff members will be able to review your data discs with you.
- We have also scheduled a meeting for Friday, June 22 (time and location to be determined) with all superintendents of districts with schools in intervention status.

You will have until Friday, June 29, to review and verify your data and, if necessary, to appeal our decisions on your school classifications. We plan to release the 2012 School Classifications to the public early next month, at a date to be determined.

I am confident that our new accountability system will help all of us to recognize successful achievement and to focus on the specific needs of each of our schools as we work together to accelerate all of our schools toward greatness.

To register for the webinar on Wednesday, click here:

REGISTER NOW

Or here:

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/487237230>

From RIDE:

2. RIDE offers webinar on Early Childhood Assessment.

Please see this message from our Office of Instruction, Assessment and Curriculum:

The Comprehensive Assessment System webinar series will continue on Wednesday, June 13th, from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., with a webinar on Early Childhood Assessment. Michele Palermo and Ruth Gallucci will discuss best practices of early childhood assessment and preview the assessment component of the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge. To register, please visit:
<http://www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/CAS.aspx>

3. RIDE announces selection of CDW-G as the provider for the RI All-inclusive Classroom Solution.

Please see this message from our Office of Multiple Pathways:

We are pleased to announce that CDW-G has been selected as the provider for the RIDE All-Inclusive Classroom Solution. CDW-G will be placed on the RIDE master price agreement (MPA) list as an affordable solution to support technology needs in RI schools.

The CDW-G solution provides a comprehensive two-year agreement for all LEAs or educational organizations that includes:

- Lenovo X130e ThinkPad with a full suite of software, Netbook Case, and stereo headphones
- Full insurance and maintenance for the two-year period including help desk technical support
- Extensive professional development opportunities for educators

All LEAs are invited to opt into this program as a solution for providing devices and technical and professional development support to schools. Other education entities, such as libraries and community organizations providing academic supports to students, may also opt into this solution.

Details of the all-inclusive classroom solution will be posted on the RIDE website (Office of Multiple Pathways) early next week.

4. RIDE provides crosswalk between Edition I and Edition II of the Rhode Island Model Teacher Professional Practice Rubric.

Please see this notice from our Office of Educator Quality and Certification:

A meaningful teacher evaluation system requires clear expectations for everyone. In response to educator feedback, we chose to adapt Domains 2 and 3 of the 2011 version of Charlotte Danielson's *Framework for Teaching* for the Teacher Professional Practice rubric in Edition II of the Rhode Island Model. After a close review, we learned that the Teacher Professional Practice competencies in Edition I of the Rhode Island Model were very similar to the components in the *Framework for Teaching*. The major difference was that the *Framework for Teaching* had strategically written the components to avoid redundancy and clearly differentiate distinctions between performance levels. Additionally, the use of critical attributes and examples helped to further clarify expectations.

By transitioning to the Danielson rubric, we are drawing on a decade of work by the Danielson Group and ETS (who helped adapt the rubric) to learn from their experience and to provide Rhode Island with a rubric that reflects some of the best thinking about educator professional practice available today. The transition will also help us improve trainings and offer stronger support resources, including a robust on-line training video library, which will lead to more transparent, fair, and accurate ratings that teachers and school leaders can rely on.

To download a rubric crosswalk that helps illustrate the alignment of Teacher Professional Practice between Edition I and Edition II of the Rhode Island Model, please visit our educator evaluation page at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/EducatorQuality/EducatorEvaluation/RIModelFAQ.aspx>

5. RIDE shares new details about the training and support for Rhode Island Model evaluators

Please see this notice from our Office of Educator Quality and Certification:

The second phase of training for evaluators implementing the Rhode Island Model begins with the Summer Academies and will continue through the 2012-13 school year. Following the Summer Academies, evaluators will be provided with two additional training modules (one in the winter and one in the spring) to continue to build their capacity to effectively implement other aspects of the Rhode Island Model, including conferencing, and Student Learning Objectives. Evaluators will also have access to ongoing support with the Educator Performance and Support System, including on-line video tutorials and webinars.

Additionally, personnel evaluating teachers will independently complete an online, classroom observation calibration training to further support their development as accurate raters of teacher practice. The calibration training will help improve evaluators' ability to collect appropriate evidence during a classroom observation; sort evidence to rubric components; and use the Teacher Professional Practice rubric to assign an appropriate score for each component.

6. RIDE recruiting Educator Quality Specialist

Please see this notice from our Office of Educator Quality and Certification:

The Office of Educator Quality and Certification is looking for an individual to join a dynamic team currently working together to establish and implement policies and programs that assure the highest quality educators are in Rhode Island classrooms and schools. The individual selected will work as part of the Educator Quality team with creative and committed colleagues in addressing changes to certification, expanding professional development initiatives, supporting teacher assistants, assuring programs that prepare teachers are of high quality, and exploring new issues such as new educator compensation models, and new routes to certification.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, so interested candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. For additional directions and application requirements, please visit the RIDE website at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Commissioner/HumanResources/employmentOpport.aspx>

7. Roster Verification for principals due Friday, June 22 – Action Item

Please see this notice from our Division of Educator Excellence and Instructional Effectiveness:

Roster Verification for teachers took place from May 29 through June 5. Seventy-two percent of 3,548 educators verified and signed off on their rosters. We want to thank teachers, principals, and superintendents for your efforts to make this process successful. In particular, we'd like to acknowledge Foster, the Learning Community, Little Compton and Smithfield, all of whom reached 100 percent.

Roster Verification for principals began on Wednesday and must be completed by June 22. Principals must review and sign off on their school rosters during this period. RIDE has developed training materials, which are available at www.ride.ri.gov/29.

Roster verification for principals is available through the eRide portal, at www.eride.ri.gov. A principal must use their eRide log-in information to access this site. Password help is available online at <https://www.eride.ri.gov/users/PasswordRetrieve.asp>. If a principal does not have an eRide account, he or she may contact their district data manager, who will be able to create an account for them.

Other:

8. Summer Professional Development for Implementing Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO)

The RI Afterschool Plus Alliance (RIASPA) and the Nellie Mae Educational Foundation are sponsoring a collaborative professional development workshop where participants will learn how to design and assess project based learning through Expanded Learning Opportunities. In addition, participants will recognize the value of ELOs for Rhode Island students, educators, and communities based on the models from districts already participating in ELO work. Teams will work and learn alongside districts preparing to implement ELO projects this coming school year.

The workshop will be facilitated by the [QED foundation](http://www.qedfoundation.org), national leaders in the field.

Two three-day sessions will be offered July 16 – 18 or July 23 – July 25. Sessions will be held at the United Way Rhode Island, 50 Valley Street, Providence, RI 02909

School team participants are encouraged to include administrators, teachers, community organizations, middle and high school student and families.

To register or with questions, contact Samantha Andersen,
samantha.andersen@afterschoolri.org

9. Slater Mill to hold open house for educators

Please see this invitation from the Slater Mill Museum:

Slater Mill Museum, in Pawtucket, Birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution and National Historic Landmark, invites you to experience first-hand what our site has to offer you and your students. Our Open House on Monday, August 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. will present you with the many programs Slater Mill Museum has to enrich your curriculum, encompassing history, science, mathematics, and social studies themes.

This event includes:

- complimentary tours of the 3 historic buildings on our site: Slater Mill, Wilkinson Mill, and the Sylvanus Brown House;
- Informative exhibits on the various programs available for students;
- Pre-K through 12, both on our site, such as “Immigration” and outreach programs entitled “Fiber to Yarn,” “Yarn to Fabric,” and “Charlie Needs a Cloak” -- our outreach programs send costumed interpreters to present right in your classroom;
- a chance to meet our Curator, Program Manager, and Education Coordinator and to ask questions; and
- refreshments and raffle prizes.

Reservations are not required, but kindly encouraged. To RSVP or learn more about the Slater Mill Open House, please contact Bernadette Vaughan, Program Manager, at 725.8638 ext. 108 or bernadette@slatermill.org

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Commissioner/fieldmemos/default.aspx>